

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MANAGU 02530 282053Z

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7343

INFO AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T MANAGUA 2530

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

SUBJECT: SOMOZA COMMENTS ON HONDURAN SITUATION

1. AT HOSPITAL INAUGURATION CEREMONY TODAY PRESIDENT SOMOZA PASSED ON INFORMATION ON HONDURAN SITUATION BASED ON HIS PERSONAL INTELLIGENCE. HE UNDERSTOOD THAT 24, NOT FIVE, HAD BEEN KILLED, BUT HE WAS UNABLE TO BREAK DOWN THE FIGURES FURTHER. HE FURTHER UNDERSTOOD THAT MELGAR HAD PERSONALLY TAKEN THE INITIATIVE IN THE EVENT AND HAD THREATENED TO RESIGN UNLESS THE LIEUTENANT COLONELS' GROUP ASSENTED TO HIS MOVE.

2. SOMOZA NOW SUSPECTS THAT LIEUTENANT COLONELS MAY HAVE PURPOSELY GIVEN MELGAR ENOUGH ROPE TO HANG HIMSELF. HE SPECULATED THAT IF THE DENOUEMENT IS NOT FAVORABLE, THERE IS A POSSIBILITY THAT THEY MAY INITIATE A COUP.
SHELTON

SECRET

NNN

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